

Quantum Computing and Machine Learning

Wiktoria Marczuk

Szymon Gogulski

Implement the HHL Algorithm for a 2x2 and 4x4 System

Poznań University of Technology

Poznań 2026



Agenda

- 1 Introduction
- 2 HHL Introduction
- 3 HHL algorithm steps
- 4 HHL for 2x2 matrix
- 5 Summary of obtained results for 2x2 matrix
- 6 HHL for 4x4 matrix
- 7 Summary of obtained results for 4x4 matrix



Project Goals:

- Review the HHL algorithm,
- Implement the algorithm for a 2x2 system,
- Compare with the classical solution,
- Implement HHL for a 4x4 system.



Systems of equations - reminder

$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 + 3x_2 = 8 \\ 4x_1 - x_2 = 3 \end{cases} \implies \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{R_2 - 2R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 0 & -7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 \\ -13 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_2 = \frac{13}{7} \implies x_1 = \frac{17}{14}$$



HHL - Harrow–Hassidim–Lloyd algorithm

It's a quantum algorithm that obtains limited information about the solution to a system of linear equations.

It was first proposed in the 2008 white paper "*Quantum algorithm for solving linear systems of equations*".

¹HHL algorithm



HHL - Authors



Figure 1: Aram Harrow



Figure 2: Avinatan Hassidim



Figure 3: Seth Lloyd

²Aram Harrow

³Avinatan Hassidim

⁴Seth Lloyd

The problem:

given a matrix A and a vector \vec{b} , find a vector \vec{x} such that $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$.

Proposed solution:

We consider the case where one doesn't need to know the solution \vec{x} itself, but rather an approximation of the expectation value of some operator associated with \vec{x} , e.g., $\vec{x}^\dagger M \vec{x}$ for some matrix M .



Conjugate gradient method time complexity:

$$\tilde{O}(N\sqrt{\kappa}) \quad (1)$$

HHL time complexity:

In case when A is Hermitian, s -sparse and efficiently row computable, then:

$$\tilde{O}(\log(N)s^2\kappa^2/\epsilon) \quad (2)$$

s, κ - derived from A .

ϵ - is the additive error achieved in the output state.



2008

- Original paper is published

2013

- First implementation of HHL by 3 indepedend papers.

2018

- general-purpose version of the algorithm published.

2024

- Survey on Quantum Linear System Solvers, compares different post-HHL algorithms.



HHL Algorithm Steps

- ① Represent \vec{b} as a quantum state $|b\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^N b_i |i\rangle$,
- ② Perform QPE (Quantum Phase Estimation)
- ③ Apply controlled rotation and measure the ancilla qubit
- ④ Perform IQPE (Inverse Quantum Phase Estimation)
- ⑤ Measure $|b\rangle$

⁶ HHL Algorithm Walkthrough



Preparing the circuit

Input data:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{3} \\ -\frac{1}{3} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{8} \\ \frac{9}{8} \end{pmatrix}$$

Eigenvectors and eigenvalues of A:

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{2}{3}, \quad \vec{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_2 = \frac{4}{3}, \quad \vec{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$



Preparing the circuit

Matrix A can be written as a **linear combination** of the outer products of its eigenvectors

$$A = \sum_{i=0}^{2^n b - 1} \lambda_i |u_i\rangle\langle u_i|$$

Vector \vec{b} can be also expressed in the **basis formed by the eigenvectors** of A

$$\vec{b} = \sum_{j=0}^{2^n b - 1} b_j |u_j\rangle$$

Therefore our **solution** can be encoded as

$$\vec{x} = A^{-1} |\vec{b}\rangle = \sum_{i=0}^{2^n b - 1} \lambda_i^{-1} b_i |u_i\rangle$$



Preparing the circuit

Algorithm uses three main quantum registers:

- **Ancilla register**

$$|0\rangle_a$$

is used for the controlled rotation implementing $1/\lambda_i$.

- **c-register**

$$|c\rangle$$

store the values of the phase of the eigenvalues λ_i of matrix A .

- **b-register**

$$|b\rangle$$

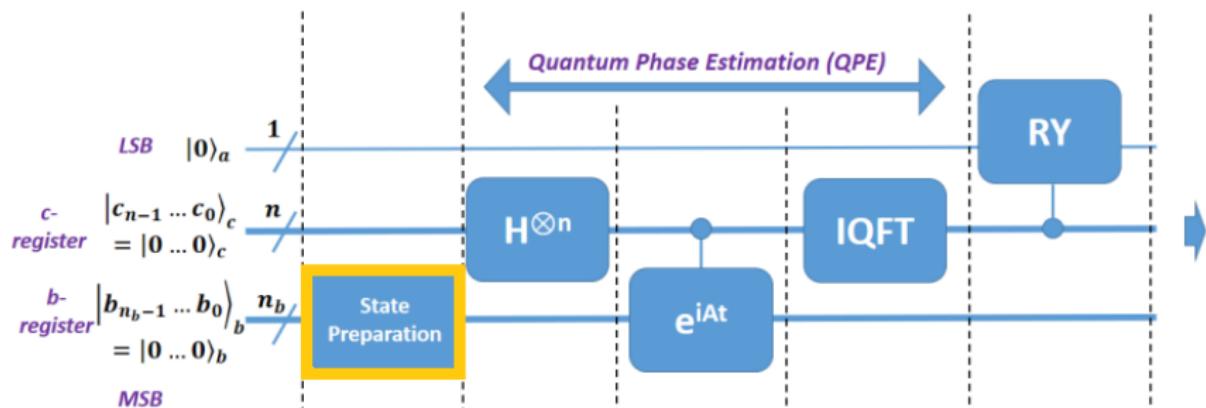
stores the solution vector $|x\rangle$.



Creating the circuit - state preparation

The full quantum state for 2x2 matrix is:

$$|\psi\rangle = |b\rangle_b|00\rangle_c|0\rangle_a$$



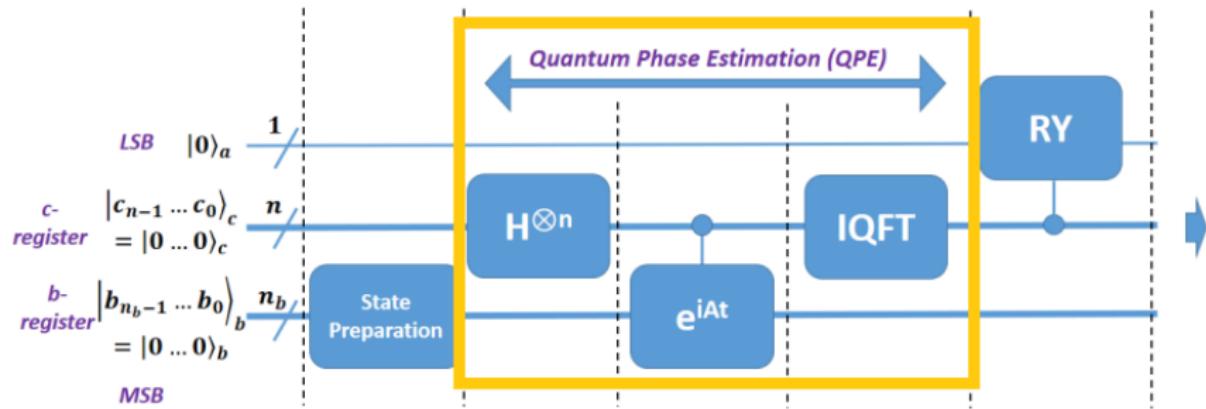
Creating the circuit - QPE

QPE has three components:

- ① Superposition of the clock qubits through Hadamard gates,
- ② Controlled rotation,
- ③ Inverse Quantum Fourier Transform (IQFT).



Creating the circuit - QPE



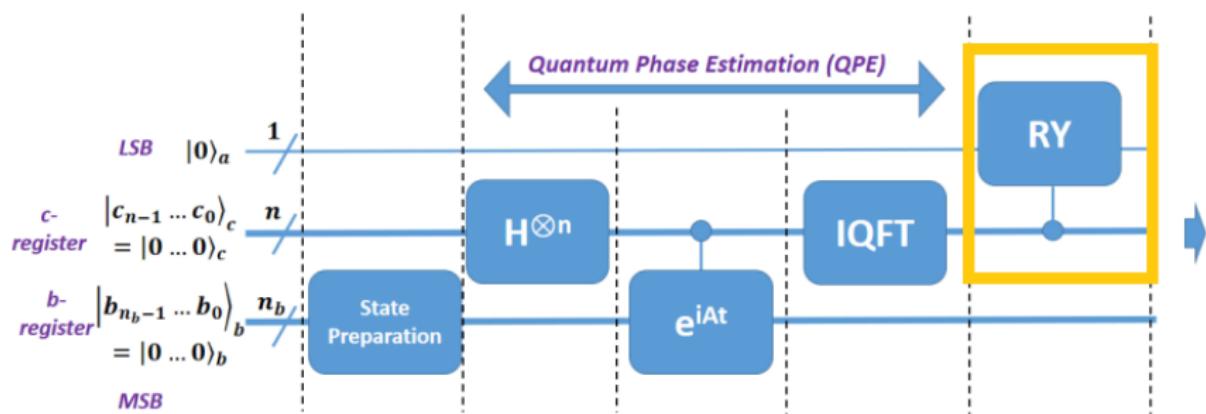
Main goal is to estimate the phase of the eigenvalues of the unitary rotation matrix $U = e^{iAt}$

The phase of the eigenvalue of the gate is proportional to the eigenvalue of A

It is expected that after QPE the **eigenvalues of A** will be encoded in the **c-register** as $\tilde{\lambda}_j$

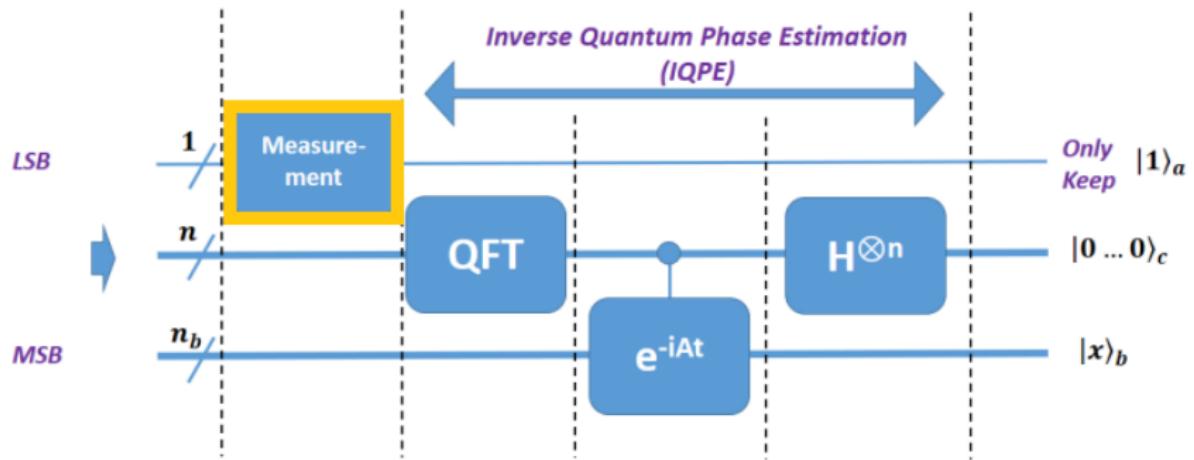
Creating the circuit - Controlled rotation

- Next step is to rotate the ancilla qubit, based on the encoded eigenvalues in the c-register
 - Rotation allows us to encode the inverses of eigenvalues ($\frac{1}{\lambda_j}$) into the amplitudes of the ancilla qubit.



Creating the circuit - Controlled rotation

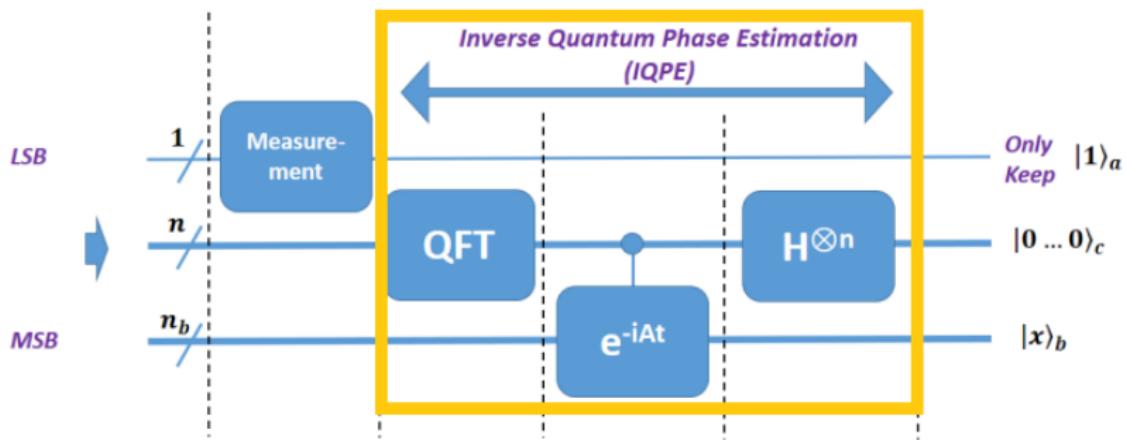
Since the ancilla bit is not involved in any operations after the controlled rotation, measuring the ancilla bit before the uncomputation gives the same result.



- After measurement the ancilla qubit wavefunction will collapse to either $|0\rangle$ or $|1\rangle$
- Probability of obtaining $|1\rangle$ is $\left|\frac{C}{\bar{\lambda}_j}\right|^2$
- We have to maximize the probability, by choosing value C as large as possible, but at the same time it must be lower than the minimum eigenvalue.
- Ancilla must be $|1\rangle$ - only then the system qubits encode $A^{-1}|b\rangle$



Creating the circuit - Controlled rotation



- Now the **b-register is entangled** with the clock qubits
- Before the IQPE we can only obtain the correct result if the b-register is measured in the eigenvector basis
- We need to **uncompute** the state so that it gives the right results in the $|0\rangle$, $|1\rangle$ basis

Creating the circuit - IQPE

Uncomputation is made by using inverse QPE, with following stages:

- ① Quantum Fourier Transform (QFT),
- ② The inverse controlled-rotations $U^{-1} = e^{-iAt}$
- ③ Superposition of the clock qubits through Hadamard gates

The clock qubits and the b-register are now **unentangled**

The b-register stores $|x\rangle$ in the **standard** computational basis



Measurement assumptions

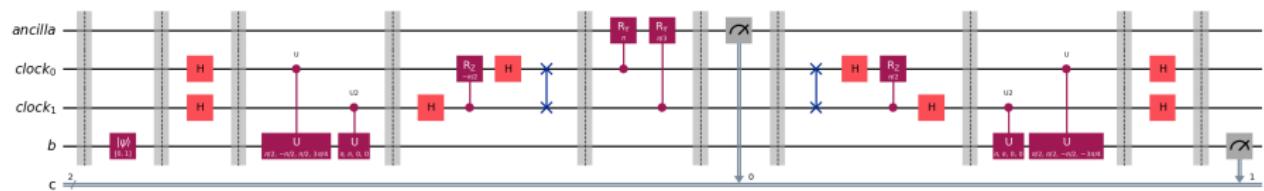
- B-register and ancilla qubits are measured, so there are four possible outputs:

$$|0\rangle_b|0\rangle_a, \quad |0\rangle_b|1\rangle_a, \quad |1\rangle_b|0\rangle_a, \quad |1\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$$

- Only outcomes with ancilla qubit $|1\rangle_a$ are considered
- The obtained amplitudes are normalized and sum to 1
- The correctness of the solution is verified by comparing the ratios of the amplitudes
- For simplicity, we have standardized the obtained results



2x2 system circuit

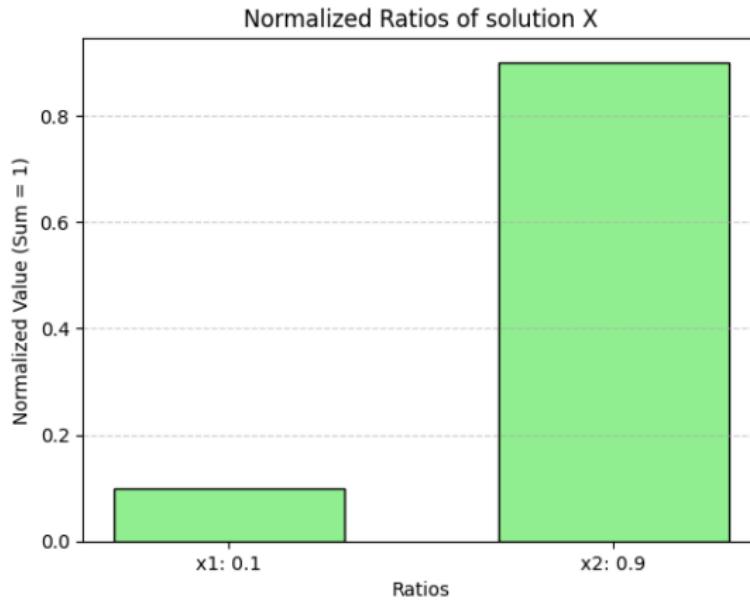


Measurements obtained from the classical solution

Classic solution $X = [0.375 \quad 1.125]$

$$X_{sq} = [|X_1|^2 \quad |X_2|^2]$$

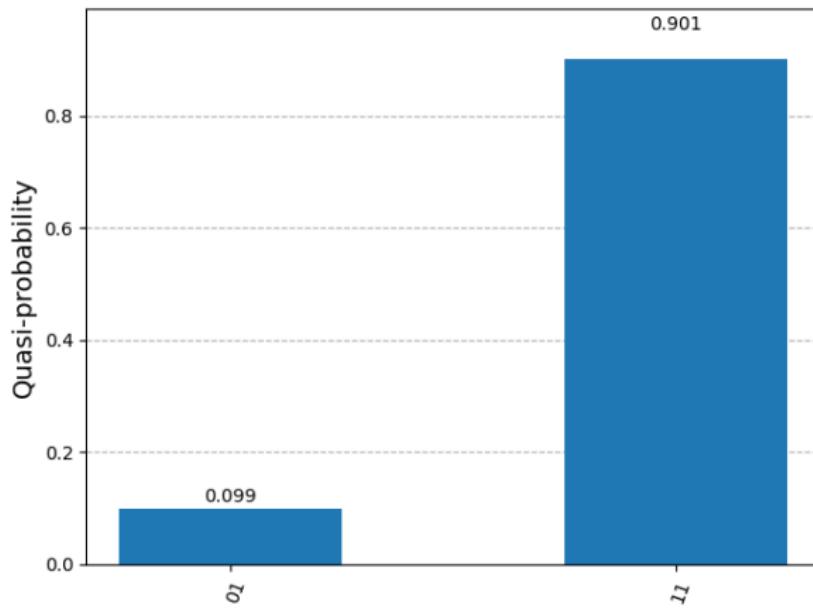
$$\text{Ratios } R = \frac{X_{sq}}{|X_{sq}|} = [0.1 \quad 0.9]$$



Measurements obtained from the simulator

The measured and normalized probabilities of $|0\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ and $|1\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ are

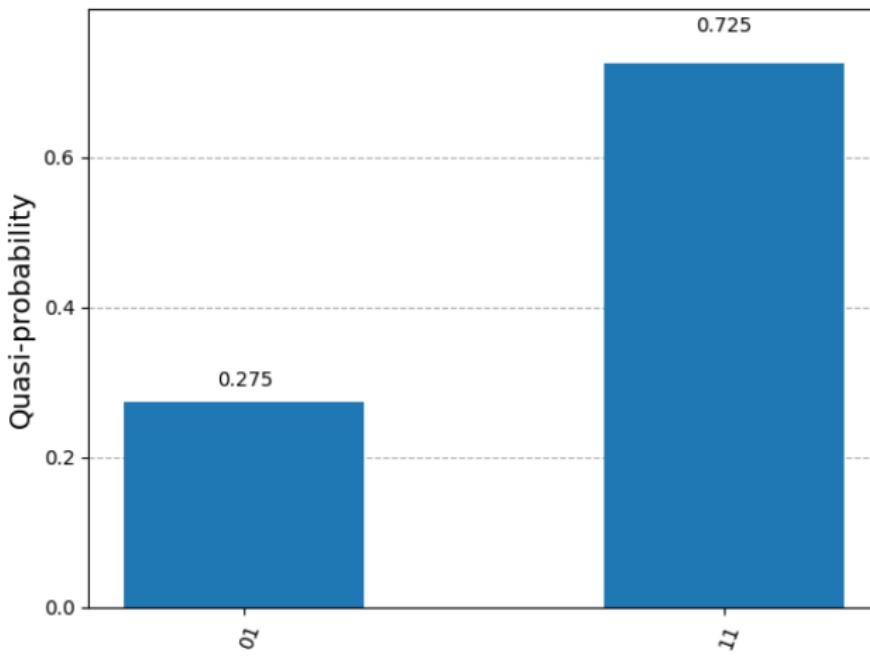
0.099, 0.901



Measurements obtained from the real quantum computer

The measured and normalized probabilities of $|0\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ and $|1\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ are

0.275, 0.725



Summary of the obtained results for 2x2 matrix

Method	Probability Ratio
Simulation (Aer)	1 : 9.10
Real quantum computer	1 : 2.64
Classical solution	1 : 9.0

Conclusions

- The ratio of measurements from the simulator is close to the expected values.
- This implies that the circuit was built correctly.
- Hardware execution of the circuit does not give satisfactory results due to noise and imperfections.



Preparing the circuit for 4x4 matrix

Linear system: $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$

Matrix A:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.6 & 0.2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0.2 & 0.6 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2.2 & 0.2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.2 & 2.2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Vector \vec{b} :

$$\vec{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Classical solution \vec{x} :

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 3.125 \\ 0.625 \\ 0.875 \\ 0.375 \end{bmatrix}$$



Differences compared to 2x2 matrix

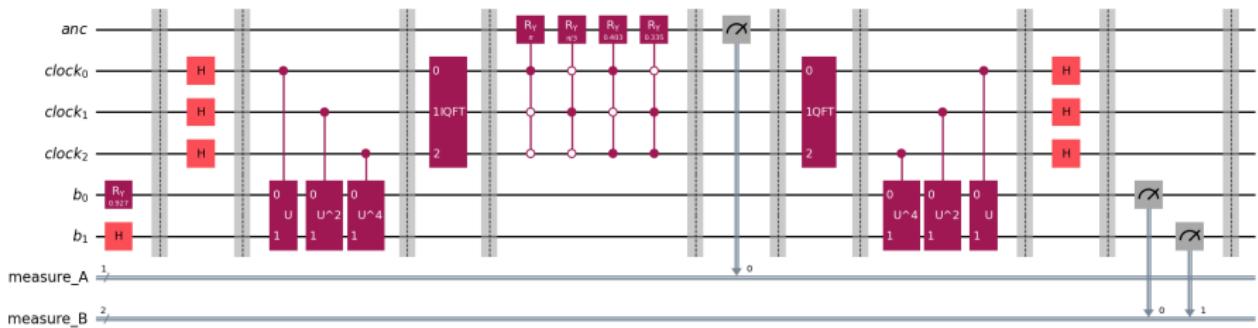
The full quantum state is:

$$|\psi\rangle = |b_1 b_2\rangle_b |000\rangle_c |0\rangle_a$$

- We need more qubits to implement the eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} and the solution vector $\vec{\mathbf{b}}$
- The procedure is the same, taking into account the greater number of qubits in the algorithms



4x4 system circuit

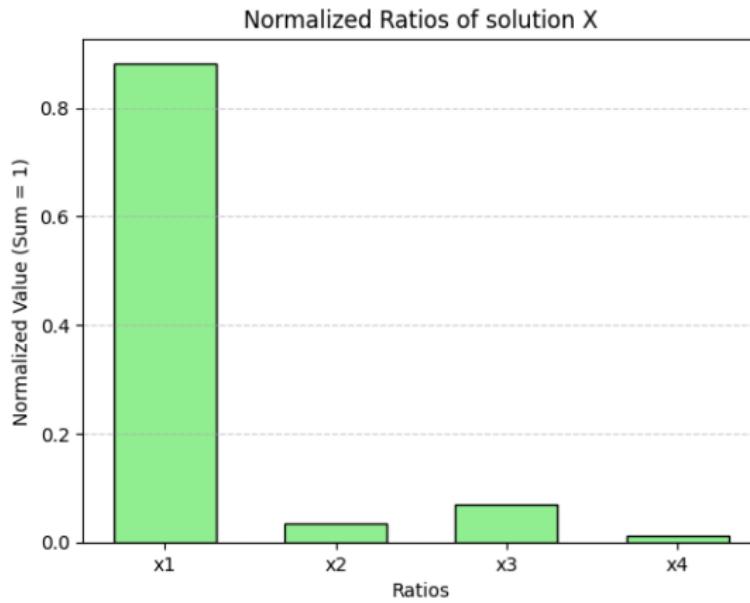


Measurements obtained from the classical solution

$$X = [3.125 \quad 0.625 \quad 0.875 \quad 0.375]$$

$$X_{sq} = [|X_1|^2 \quad |X_2|^2 \quad |X_3|^2 \quad |X_4|^2]$$

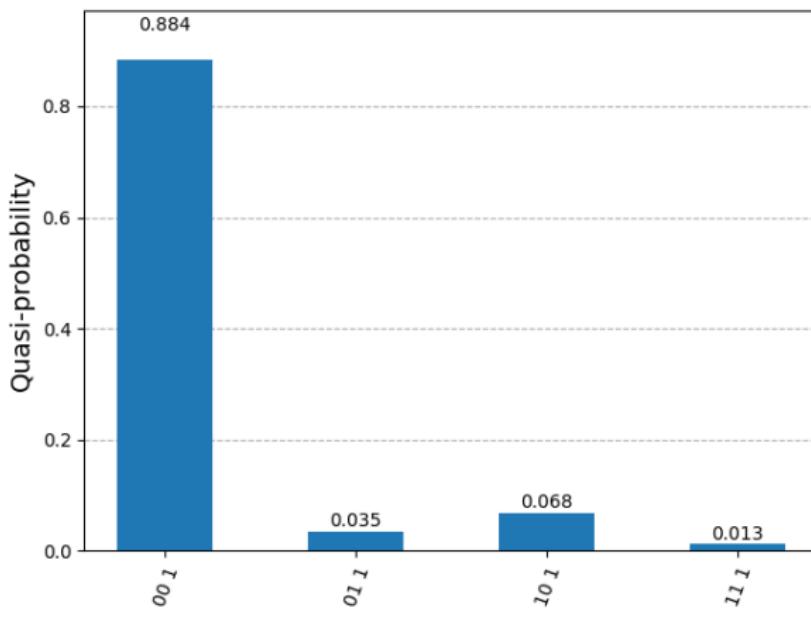
$$Ratios = \frac{X_{sq}}{|X_{sq}|} = [0.88 \quad 0.04 \quad 0.07 \quad 0.01]$$



Measurements obtained from the simulator

The measured and normalized probabilities of
 $|00\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ $|01\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ $|10\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ $|11\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ are

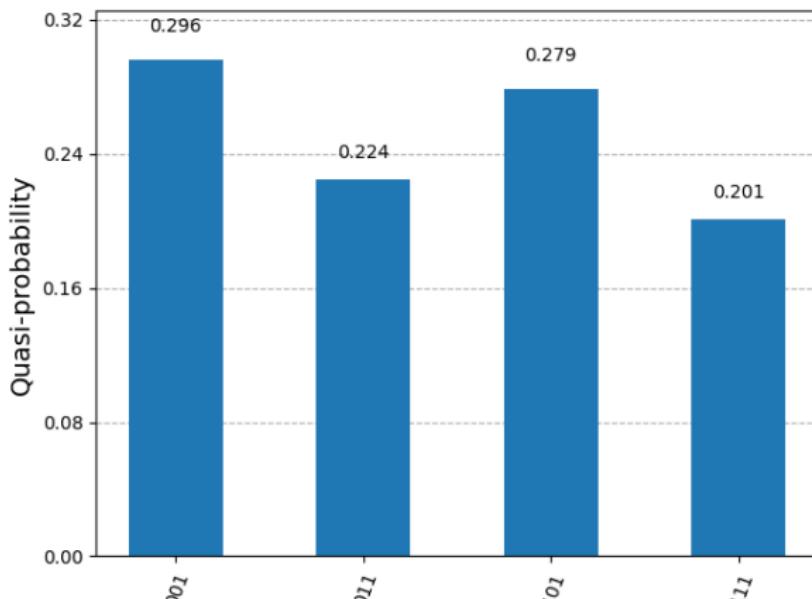
0.884 0.035 0.068 0.013



Measurements obtained from the real quantum computer

The measured and normalized probabilities of
 $|00\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ $|01\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ $|10\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ $|11\rangle_b|1\rangle_a$ are

0.296 0.224 0.279 0.201



Summary of the obtained results for 4x4 matrix

Method	x_0	x_1	x_2	x_3
Classical solution	0.88	0.04	0.07	0.01
Simulator (Aer)	0.884	0.035	0.068	0.013
Quantum hardware	0.296	0.224	0.279	0.201

Conclusions

- Again the ratio of measurements from the simulator is close to the expected values.
- This implies that the circuit was built correctly.
- Hardware execution of the circuit does not give satisfactory results due to noise and imperfections.



References

Quantum algorithm for solving linear systems of equations
Step-by-Step HHL Algorithm Walkthrough



Thank you for your attention.

